

On This Spring's Migration (1878)
In the Hudson Highlands

In a paper read by one member of the Linnean Society "on the animal and vegetable life of the ^{past winter}," the author ^{among other things} has given us a careful account of the avifauna of the lower Hudson, ^{which he} ~~prefaces~~ ^{with} remarks on "one of the most remarkable winters, as regards mildness and freedom from snow and cold, ever experienced in this latitude." In conclusion the author remarks, after alluding still farther to the unusual mildness of the winter: "Should the conditions now suffer a ~~relaxation~~ after the expression of confidence, so to speak, manifested both in animal & vegetable life, the effect would probably be disastrous; but on the other hand, if the rapidly advancing season experiences no retardation, one of the earliest springs on record will be the result." We now know how prophetic was this last remark. We have indeed experienced a remarkably early season, and all ornithologists have doubtless observed more or less of its effects upon ^{the} early northward migration of Birds. As this has been the universal experience, I will not go into the details of the migration as a whole; but will dwell ^{briefly} upon some of its most notable effects upon ^{movements of the} the birds of this region, and

noticed some of the rarer, or peculiar forms which have visited us during the Spring; ^{and} not mentioning the dates of arrival of a number of species: -

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~~Helminthophaga~~ Turdus migratorius. - Found a nest containing four eggs April 27th.

Turdus pallasi. - First seen April 15th; scarce, and irregular

Turdus ~~pallasi~~ ^{rusticulus}. - Arrived April 30. Found a nest, in company with Mr. Osborn, which contained one egg May 11th. Several empty nests were found the same day.

Harporhynchus rufus. - arrived April 27th.

Mimus carolinensis. - Arrived Apr. 27th. Found two nests, one of which contained two, and the other four eggs. May 15th.

^{*}Troglodytes aëdon. - arrived April 30th.

Telmatodytes palustris. - ~~Arrived~~ ^{shot a specimen} May 4th.

Mniotilta varia. - First seen Apr. 26th.

Parula americana. - Mr. Osborn shot the first specimen April 27th., at Highland Falls.

Helminthos remurorum. - Arrived May 11th.

when Osborn shot the first specimen in Putnam County, where we saw several of them. After ^{which} they were abundant

Helminthophaga chrysotera. This species was first shot by Mr. Osborn ^{on the forenoon of} May 10th, near his residence, at Garrison. Visiting the same swamp, ^{later} the next day. Later in the day others were seen. On the following day I captured another specimen, and afterwards found them at Highland Falls. They were last

Certhia
familiaris

Seen
April 1st. 1878

seen ^{at H. H.} on the 25th of May, where they were
probably breeding, ^{and on the same occasion} when Mr Osborn shot a
beautiful specimen. I have found this
species less abundant even, than H. pinus,
whose nest I have taken. I have not
seen chrysoptera before since May 12th, 1875,
~~when a single~~ Helminthophaga ruficapilla
Only one bird seen this spring; a male
shot ^{on the 10th of May} in the large swamp, at Garrison's, where
chrysoptera was first seen. The species is
generally very abundant in the orchards.

Dendroica aestiva was first seen May 9th.

virius do 9th.

caerulescens do 4th

blackburniae do 7th.

strata First seen, ^{by} Mr Osborn 9th.

When ^{he} Mr. Osborn procured two adult males
at Garrison's.

Dendroica castanea was first noticed, May 22.

maculosa do May 8th

pennsylvanica do " 3rd

palmarum I shot 1st specimen ^{at Garrison's April} 20th.

pinus First shot April 15th.

Lanius monticola. - Two specimens were
shot by Mr. Osborn on April 19th. after
which they were abundant on both
sides of the river. A female that I col-
-lected May 7th. contained an egg nearly
ready for extrusion. On May 15th. I
found a newly completed nest, which con-
-tained six (6) eggs on the 22nd. A nest
that I found on the following day contained

Pair (5) slightly incubated eggs. They were subsequently found breeding in considerable numbers along all the brooks, tho' I had no time to search for nests.

Lanius navius. - Arrived on the 26th of April, when I procured some fine specimens. Last seen May 24th, when a pair was shot, the female of which gave evidence of being about to nest, probably at no great distance.

Lanius aurocapillus, Arrived April 26th.

Geothlypis trichas. - Arrived in numbers May 4. Found two nests, each containing 4 eggs May 24.

Myiodiastes nigratus. Arrived May 4th 2 shot

Myiodiastes canadensis. - do 10th.

Selva rufus arrived May 6th.

Setophaga ruticilla. - 27th.

Pyrranga rubra Arrived May 3rd.

Hirundo horreorum. - First seen April 23.

Tachycineta bicolor. - Seen at Fishkill Apr. 18th.

Petrochelidon lunifrons. - Not seen until 11th May.

Cotyle riparia. - Entirely escaped our notice.

Progne subis. - do

Chrysomitris tristis. Mr. C. J. Huyler writes me from Lenape, New Jersey, ^{under date of May 1st.} opposite ~~New~~ ^{Princeton} ~~Princeton~~ that "Chrysomitris tristis have al-

-ready built & are hatching". If Mr Huyler's observations are correct, as they ~~undoubtedly~~ are, they only go to prove still farther the uncertainty & irregularity as regards their time of nesting, as I have taken fresh egg lots in September. In this respect they present a case ~~case~~ precisely analogous to that of the Amphispiza cedrorum, which are well